



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAY 12 2016

OFFICE OF  
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Honorable Harold Rogers  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am transmitting the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's response to the March 2016 Government Accountability Office report entitled, *Data Center Consolidation: Agencies Making Progress, but Planned Savings Goals Need to Be Established* (GAO-16-323). The EPA prepared this response pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 720.

The GAO recommended that 10 agencies take action to address challenges in establishing, and to complete, planned data center cost savings and avoidance targets and recommended that 22 agencies take action to improve optimization progress, including addressing any identified challenges.

**GAO Recommendation:**

*To better ensure that federal data center consolidation and optimization efforts improve governmental efficiency and achieve cost savings, we recommend that the Secretaries of the Departments of the Interior, State, Transportation, and the Treasury; the Administrators of the Environmental Protection Agency, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Small Business Administration; the Directors of the National Science Foundation and the Office of Personnel Management; and the Chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission take action to address challenges in establishing, and to complete, planned data center cost savings and avoidance targets for fiscal years 2016 through 2018.*

**EPA Response:**

The EPA agrees with the recommendation. The EPA has established a revised and enhanced approach for meeting or exceeding the OMB's established data center cost savings and avoidance targets for fiscal years 2016 through 2018. This revised approach establishes a single data center within each of several specific geographic areas. For each data center selected for retention, necessary upgrades will be made to address any potential capacity or performance issues. Stakeholders will then consolidate applicable data center assets into the cloud, an agency core data center, or applicable agency geographic data center. Surplus data center assets will be decommissioned and excessed or appropriately scaled to be realigned with reduced capacity requirements. Specific plans for each data center slated for consolidation are currently under development. The resulting total cost savings are under assessment and have not yet been determined.

**GAO Recommendation:**

*We also recommend that the Secretaries of the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Education, Energy, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, Housing and Urban Development, the Interior, Labor, State, Transportation, the Treasury and Veterans Affairs; the Attorney General of the United States; the Administrators of the Environmental Protection Agency, General Services Administration and U.S. Agency for International Development, the Director of the Office of Personnel Management; the Chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission; and the Commissioner of the Social Security Administration take action to improve progress in the data center optimization areas that we reported as not meeting OMB's established targets, including addressing any identified challenges.*

**EPA Response:**

The EPA agrees with the recommendation. To improve the EPA's progress in data center optimization areas that currently fall short of the OMB's established targets, the EPA stakeholders have been directed to place emphasis on virtualizing physical servers in concert with the revised data center consolidation efforts referenced above. Specific direction has also been given to have stakeholders give primary consideration for moving server-based applications to the cloud or a core data center. These efforts will increase the EPA values for core to non-core operating system, core to non-core physical server ratio, and facility utilization. The estimated increase for each optimization metric will be determined after data center consolidation plans are finalized.

The agency appreciates the opportunity to review and comment on the GAO's final report. If you have any questions, please contact me or your staff may contact James Blizzard by email at [blizzard.james@epa.gov](mailto:blizzard.james@epa.gov), or by phone at (202) 564-1695.

Sincerely,

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David A. Bloom  
Deputy Chief Financial Officer





UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAY 12 2016

OFFICE OF  
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am transmitting the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's response to the March 2016 Government Accountability Office report entitled, *Data Center Consolidation: Agencies Making Progress, but Planned Savings Goals Need to Be Established* (GAO-16-323). The EPA prepared this response pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 720.

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David A. Bloom  
Deputy Chief Financial Officer





UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAY 12 2016

OFFICE OF  
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Honorable Ron Johnson  
Chairman  
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

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David A. Bloom  
Deputy Chief Financial Officer





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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAY 12 2016

OFFICE OF  
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Honorable Jason Chaffetz  
Chairman  
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
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MAY 12 2016

OFFICE OF  
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Honorable Eugene Dodaro  
Comptroller General  
Government Accountability Office  
Washington, D.C. 20548

Dear Mr. Dodaro:

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The agency reviewed the report and pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 720, enclosed are copies of the EPA responses to the Chairs of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations. If you have any further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact James Blizzard in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, by phone at (202) 564-1695, or by email at [blizzard.james@epa.gov](mailto:blizzard.james@epa.gov).

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David A. Bloom  
Deputy Chief Financial Officer

Enclosures







UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAY 12 2016

OFFICE OF  
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Honorable Shaun Donovan  
Director  
Office of Management and Budget  
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Mr. Donovan:

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